

## BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC) MEETING MINUTES

<b>Meeting Type:</b>	Regular Business Meeting	<b>Meeting Date:</b>	June 17, 2009
<b>Participants:</b>	Don Koski (Chair), Renée Burke Jordan (Vice Chair), BPAC members, BPAC partners	<b>Location:</b>	NCTCOG, CP11, Transportation Council Room
<b>NCTCOG Staff Members Present:</b>	Deborah Humphreys, Karla Weaver, Staron Faucher	<b>Time:</b>	3:15 pm

### MEETING PURPOSE:

To discuss coordination of planning and construction of bicycle and pedestrian facilities and initiatives throughout the region.

### AGENDA ITEMS:

#### 1. Introductions

#### 2. Restructuring of BPAC

Item Purpose: The restructuring, membership bylaws, and procedures of the newly reformed Committee were explained.

Reference Item: Electronic Presentation 1- Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Restructuring

Conclusion: Karla Weaver explained the restructuring of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (previously the Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Task Force), the history of the Committee, and its primary purpose. The committee was restructured to include a wider range of stakeholders and to follow a more formal structure based on the Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC).

#### 3. Regional Veloweb Update

Item Purpose: NCTCOG's plan to update the Veloweb alignment by compiling information received at previously held county workshops throughout the region.

Reference Item: Electronic Presentation 2- Regional Veloweb Update

Conclusion: Deborah Humphreys gave an update on the status of the Regional Veloweb. There are 200 miles of the 644 mile plan currently complete. The committee will be used to find new trails to add to future updates to the Veloweb plan and to eliminate sections that are not feasible. The plan does not distinguish between concrete and unpaved. Trail will not be shown as complete until construction has been officially completed, though funded projects are noted separately. A final review meeting will be held in late summer for final comment before adoption by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC).

#### 4. Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program

Item Purpose: The Advisory Committee was updated on the funding opportunity for bike/ped facilities being offered through the Department of Energy.

Reference Item: Electronic Presentation 3- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program

Conclusion: Deborah Humphreys presented on the Stimulus Bill section that includes funding to improve energy efficiency. This funding can be used for bicycle facilities among other uses. Grants are currently only open to cities and counties. The State of Texas can open the sub-grants up to non-profits and transit agencies if it chooses. Some cities automatically qualify based on their population.

## **5. 2009 Sustainable Development Call for projects Funding Program**

Item Purpose: Application rules and deadlines for the 2009 Sustainable Development Call for Projects were discussed with the Advisory Committee.

Reference Item: Electronic Presentation 4- 2009 Sustainable Development Call for Projects

Conclusion: Staron Faucher explained the application rules and deadlines for the 2009 Sustainable Development Call for Projects. Funding must be within certain areas based on proximity to passenger rail lines, historic downtowns, or environmental justice areas. Bicycle trails/facilities and pedestrian infrastructure improvements are all eligible grant expenses. This would exclude pedestrian crossings of rivers and highways outside of designated areas.

## **6. Bicycle/ Pedestrian Initiatives in DFW**

Item Purpose: The Advisory Committee was briefed on bike/ped implementation projects in the Cities of Fort Worth and Plano, followed by an open discussion of projects occurring throughout the region.

Reference Item: Electronic Presentation 5- Fort Worth Sidewalk Study/ADA Pedestrian Curb Ramp Study; Bike Fort Worth

Conclusion: Don Koski of Fort Worth discussed the Sidewalks and ADA Pedestrian Curb Ramp Survey and the Fort Worth Bike Plan. The sidewalk survey looked at 50% of the city and 55% of the area lacked sidewalks. The priority list would cost \$42 million over 20 years. They did consider land use on lesser streets when deciding if sidewalks were needed. The survey took a brief, subjective look at sidewalks on both sides of the street.

The new comprehensive bike plan for the City of Fort Worth, *BikeFortWorth*, is set to be approved by the City Council sometime this summer. The plan focused on the City of Fort Worth, its ETJ, and connections to neighboring cities. The plan addresses a wide variety of implementation strategies including bike routes, dedicated bike lanes, off-street trails, and maintenance costs for each of the facilities. Education and safety are key components of the plan.

Reference Item: Electronic Presentation 6- Plano's Bicycle Transportation System

Conclusion: Renee Burke Jordan of Plano discussed the City of Plano's plans for bicyclists. The City has been working on the planning and development of bike facilities since the 1980's. They now have a very detailed plan and many miles of off-street trails. Currently they do not have many facilities on-street, but they are about to start improving the conditions for bikes on streets including an interconnected on-street bike route system. The on-street plans include inline skaters and do not exempt cyclist from obeying driving laws.

Open Discussion:

- There were some discussions about creating maps and wayfinders to assist people in finding the Regional Veloweb and finding their way along the Veloweb.
- Some cyclist wanted maps to show the best way to get to rail stations and bus stops. NCTCOG has looked at creating detailed maps of the Veloweb, on-street routes, and transit stops, but it would be quite costly to determine all of the facilities within the region. However, COG is looking for funding to undertake this project. COG completed a study on bike and pedestrian access to rail stations in 2002.

## **7. Other Business**

Item Purpose: This item provided an opportunity for attendees at the BPAC meeting to bring items of interest before the group.

Reference Item: N/A

Conclusion: -Don Koski suggested having a future presentation on the Safe Routes to School Program.  
-Max Kalhammer suggested developing regional guidelines for uniform traffic control and traveler warnings at trail-road intersections as a future agenda topic.  
-Paul Hakes suggested having future BPAC meetings later in the day to accommodate attendees who have to work.

## **8. Next Meetings**

Item Purpose: The next meetings of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee are scheduled for Wednesday, August 19, 2009, and Wednesday, October 21, 2009.

Reference Item: N/A

Conclusion: N/A